

DEMOCRATIC EFFICIENCY?

How the Public's Business Was
Conducted Under Former
Administrations.

DR. THOMPSON DISCOVERS

Evidences of Gross Carelessness in the
Secretary of State Office—Public Money
and Papers Thrown Into Any Convenient
Place—Only to be Forgotten—The Cau-

Every now and then some Democratic paper publishes an article, incompetently or carelessly of a Republican or Populist official. This discovery is written up to suit the Democratic press and the Democratic newspapers and the Democratic papers. Much ado is made of it as it seems to be particularly palatable to this class of newspapers. But the official, whether he is a Republican official, either in high or low station, should be guilty of either charge it is unnoticed, or if it happens to be too glaring to be unnoticed, it is forgotten. According the incident is published and put in some obscure position in the paper where it is most likely to escape the readers eye and the readers mind.

THE CAUCASIAN has recently come into possession of some gross carelessness and negligence that is worthy of the University of State's

Under the administration of Saunders, Coke and Cook, Dr. Thompson, the present Secretary of State, has given some of these facts to reporters of Democratic papers, but they failed to make note of it, or to publish it. The CAUCASIAN proposes to publish the facts that the public may learn that there is a man in the State who is not always as attentive to the discharge of their duties as the Democratic papers would have the people believe. It is not probable that it will do much only upon the public correspondence pertaining to the office of Secretary of State.

Dr. Thompson, in overhauling the papers and records of the office, came across a number of letters from the Secretary of State, of great importance, if not to the State, at least to the individual interested and who had a right to know the contents of the letters at the hands of the office. We will give a few as examples.

1. In May, 1896, Mr. Turner Turpin, of the State of Georgia, wrote a letter to the Secretary of State containing some papers for a land grant, and also a money order for \$165, the necessary papers for the same. The money order was pigeon holed and forgotten.

about a year later the postoffice authorities learned to the fact that an unpaid money order was in the postoffice, whereupon the Secretary had a duplicate money order issued and received by Mr. Turpin in April, 1896. The original letter with order was recently found by Dr. Thompson, who then wrote to the sender, and after that time the service had been performed by his predecessor he returned the money to Mr. Turpin.

On August 1, 1895, Mr. W. W. Copeland, of Big Oak, Moore county, sent papers for land grant enclosing \$300 in cash to cover expenses of a survey.

This letter was also recently unearthed, and the Secretary wrote to Mr. Copeland for some information in regard to the same. The following is Mr. Copeland's reply:

Big Oak, N. C. Oct. 6, 1897.

Mr. Cyrus Thompson, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C. In reply to yours of the 5th inst., I have to inform you that the 1828 folio and got Cole's registered receipt for same; that is the last I ever heard of it until to-day. I write enclosing stamp for or answer to your letter of the 10th inst. money or papers. I would say to you, that I want your grant as soon as possible. If I have anything wrong or anything lacking in my application, please let me hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, as I am anxious to know.

Respectfully yours,
W. B. COLEMAN, Secy.

Mr. George H. W. B. COLEMAN, of Bowdoin College, on December the 28th, 1882, sent me a letter with papers for land grant and check for \$12.23; the grant was issued on January, 1883, but the check had

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6 Mr. Nathan D. Hart, of Bryson City, sent papers for land grant in '91, together with \$5.00 in money; the papers were out of date and grant could not be issued. The proper thing for the Secretary of State at that time to have done, was to notify Mr. Hart that the grant could not be issued and return the money, but instead, it was pigeon-holed, and six years after found by our present Secretary of State. Dr. Thomp-

7. Mr. Wm. H. Oliver, an insurance agent at Newbern, in a letter dated April 12th, 1934, advised the Secretary of State that for \$25.00 in payment of an insurance company license for three months, the check could not be returned to Mr. Oliver with information to that effect, but neither was done until Dr. Thompson last month found the check and letter and corresponded with Mr. Oliver in regard to the matter and he then returned the check to

S. A. lettered dated Oct. 27th, 1884, from the insurance man in Virginia, enclosing a check for \$45.00 in payment of insurance taxes, was received at the Secretary's office. Mr. Thompson discovered the check until Mr. Thompson discovered the check nearly tucked away in a pigeon hole of the Secretary's desk. The check was dated March 1, 1880, and for the purpose of course is a loss to the State, and while the amount in itself is seemingly small, it however, plainly reveals the fact that the check was not cashed in in that office. In another place a check was found drawn in favor of Mr. J. M. Rameuse, by Mr. A. R. Rameuse, dated March 1, 1880, and endorsed on the back by Mr. H. M. Rameuse; this check had evidently been given in

our South Carolina
listen to at any time